



GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

JULY 2013 VOLUME 4 ISSUE 7

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Cooperation – a refreshing breeze blows into Lansing



by Susan Beckett
Publisher

It is a pleasure to report that gridlock in our state government has eased and important bipartisan measures are making their way into law. Kudos to Governor Snyder and the party leaders for working together and finding compromises that will help the state as a whole and the poor in particular.

Medicaid expansion

The big news is that the Medicaid expansion funded by the Affordable Care Act will be rolled out this year if the State Senate follows the lead of the House. This will insure more than 400,000 low-income Michigan residents, mostly people who work but are not covered by their employers. It

was pressure from small business owners who want health care for their employees but can't afford to offer it that ultimately swayed many legislators.

Other legislators recognized that if Michigan did not use those federal dollars, which came in part from Michigan taxpayers, they would simply be redirected to other states. A cost-sharing provision that is subject to approval by the federal government was included in order to promote personal responsibility and offset some of the cost that would be borne by Michigan taxpayers as the federal government reduces its support from 100 percent to 90 percent over the next 10 years.

The waiver would allow the state to require as much as a five-percent-of-income contribution from qualified recipients whose income is between 100 and 133 percent of the federal poverty level. That amount rises to a seven percent contribution if they are still on Medicaid after four years. They would have the option of purchasing insurance through the federal health exchange, instead.

The Medicaid expansion is being implemented on a trial basis, with a

provision that the Department of Community Health must publish online, public reports on the state's savings. The bill requires that the Medicaid expansions save the state at least as much money as the state contributes in matching funds.

Rep. Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) said in a statement that the expansion is a step forward for the state.

“This bill will finally bring medical relief to nearly a half million people in our state who currently have no access to health care other than costly visits to emergency rooms,” he said. “Accepting federal dollars to expand Medicaid is a common-sense solution that will save the state budget over \$200 million a year.”

House Speaker Jase Bolger (R-Marshall) also praised the House's ability to reach a compromise on the issues.

“The key in all of this has been about seizing an opportunity to improve the overall health of people in Michigan. While doing that, we are reforming a broken status quo, instilling personal options and responsibility, and protecting taxpayers from having to incur additional debt in the future,” he said in a statement. “This is a great example of cooperation in Lansing

leading to the resolution of a difficult issue in a way that keeps the focus on the people of Michigan and what they need. It also shows the federal government that we're serious about getting things done as Michigan leads the way in innovation and government reform.”

Indigent defense

The House and Senate both overwhelmingly passed legislation that sets a higher standard for the quality of defense for defendants with court-appointed attorneys, regardless of the county in which they are tried. Some Michigan counties had systems that were so bad that they were under a court order to improve.

Similar legislation was drafted last term, but Senator Bruce Caswell (R-Hillsdale), the bill's sponsor, has previously said the issue was far too important to have been rushed through lame duck back then, as it would have likely faced some opposition.

“It's a far better bill than we had at the end of last year and it does ensure the constitutional rights our poorest citizens to be properly represented,” Mr. Caswell said.

Well done – this is the kind of government the people of Michigan want and deserve!

Call on U-M to divest from fossil fuels

Dear Groundcover News Editor,

I recently wrote a letter to each of the University of Michigan Regents that I thought might be of interest to the Ann Arbor community. Divestment campaigns were used successfully in opposition to South African apartheid as well as in opposition to the tobacco industry. Fossil fuel divestment campaigns are now rising in frequency. See my letter below:

To the Regents of the University of Michigan:

I write to you as a proud two-time University of Michigan alumna – B.A. 2006, M.S. 2009.

I recently learned that a portion of the \$7.7 billion University endowment is invested in fossil fuel companies.

In 1978 the Board of Regents adopted a resolution stating that if “a particular issue involves serious moral or ethical questions which are of a concern to many members of the University community, an advisory committee consisting of member of the University Senate, students, administration and alumni will be appointed to father information and formulate recommendations for the Regents’ consideration.”

Has this advisory committee been formed yet?

Never in the history of human civilization have we faced a greater moral and ethical issue than climate change. Without comment, billions of people on this planet are subjected to the enormously detrimental effects of climate change – severe droughts, floods, and storms, a rising sea, and increasing unpredictability in natural systems.

Billions have had no say in this matter, nor have they received any of the benefits and profits that stem from this issue – unlike the University of Michigan. That, to me, is shameful.

If climate change is morally wrong, then so is profiting from climate change.

In November 2005, U of M CFO Timothy Slottow released a statement that an advisory committee would be established given “the concern to be explored must express the broadly and consistently held position of the campus community over time.” How much time? In 1994 as a fourth grade student in Northern Michigan I first felt the anxiety that often comes with understanding the science of the greenhouse effect. In 9th grade, I made global warming a focus of a semester-long research paper, and in college, I minored in Global Change.

Singing angels



by Rev. Dr. Martha
Brunell

Groundcover
Contributor

One of the 20th-century theological voices that I turn to is that of Howard Thurman. Thurman, an African American scholar, was a theological giant in the last century. Today a short quote of his appeared in an email I received. “There must be always remaining in every life, some place for the singing of angels, some place for that which in itself is breathless and beautiful.” These were not new words for me, but I hadn't heard or read them in a while, and I paused with them to wonder about the current singing angels for me.

My thoughts turned immediately to a small book that sits upright on the top of a bookcase in my bedroom. It is a children's book called *Sea Gifts* by George Shannon. I originally bought it back in 1991 because the illustrations were woodcuts by Vermont artist Mary Azarian. Her work was work I already loved. I used the book in my good-bye service with a congregation I was leaving in Vermont that year. I also taught with *Sea Gifts* in 2006. Years later, it is located where I can see it each day as I reminder of the attitude I would like to bring into the shaping of my daily life.

It is an uncluttered story about an old man who lives alone at the edge where land and sea meet. Each day he goes out to find wood tossed up by the tide

overnight. Some pieces he stores for repairs on his house. The large wood requires the help of neighbors to move it. Later he will chop it up to add to his woodpile. The smallest wood he gathers, for that wood has stories to tell, and he will listen for them when the dark hours settle around him. In the evenings, with kerosene lantern lit and a cat close by, he studies each of the smallest pieces and carves them into the figures they suggest. As he whittles, a frog, a raven, and a leaping fish emerge. Morning arrives and he goes out to search for a new supply of wood after he has left in the sand what he carved the night before. His carved pieces lie where the high tide will reach and receive them. He is then free to search for another day's waiting treasures held in odd scraps and bits of wood.

The simple rhythm of his collecting, attending, creating, and giving has long enchanted me. It reveals a core mutuality at the heart of healthy living where a spiral of giving and receiving is in continual motion. The point is not efficient production but joyful discovery and generous response. In Thurman's language, the old man is a singing angel for me. Over twenty years later, the story can still take my breath away. Shannon tells it exquisitely, Azarian renders it beautifully, and I am compelled again and again to consider living from such a place in my life. So with a nod to Thurman, I ask where the angels might be singing for you. Listen. You may be surprised. Perhaps their chorus will appear where you don't expect it. Or have they been there all along in the hopes you would notice the strains of their song?



Bethlehem United Church of Christ
423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(between William and Packard)
www.bethlehem-ucc.org (734) 665-6149
Bethlehem Church is home for the Groundcover Office

Sundays:

8:30 am and 10:00 am ~ Worship
10:00 am ~ Church School
(There will be only one coffee hour at 9:30 am in the Lounge)

Upcoming Events:

July 17 thru July 20 ~ Art Fair Parking
(If you plan are attending the Art Fair, please park at Bethlehem Church and help support our Youth Program.)
an invitation to grow in spirit and serve with joy

July Calendar of Events

July 1 - August 29 – Sonic Lunch 2013 Summer Concerts at Liberty Square, 12-1:30 p.m. (Thursdays). Free live music and local food vendors, every Thursday throughout summer. Liberty Square, 500 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. More info: soniclunch.com, or email info@soniclunch.com.

July 1-7 – 30th Annual Ann Arbor Summer Festival's Top of the Park, 5 p.m. - midnight. Live music and food. Ingalls Mall, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. More info: a2sf.org.

July 2/9/16/23/30 – Tuesday Résumé Clinics, 9-11 a.m. Learn how to construct a résumé and receive professional advice and editing. Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Career Transition Center, Key Bank Building, 2nd Floor, 301 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. More info: call (734) 544-6799; TDD (800) 649-3777.

July 4 – 23rd Annual Ann Arbor Fourth of July Parade, 10 a.m. Downtown Ann Arbor. For a map of the parade route and more information on the Bike Decorating Contest, visit a2jaycees.org/parade, or call (734) 531-9626.

July 4 – 84th Annual Ypsilanti Independence Day Parade, 11 a.m. Depot Town. Michigan's longest-running Independence Day parade begins on the corner of Oakwood and Cross Streets and ends at Rice Street. More info: ypsilantijaycees.com.

July 12 – 19th Annual Rolling Sculpture Car Show, 2-10 p.m. Tour more than 400 exotic, antique, classic, and concept cars in the heart of downtown Ann Arbor. Main, Liberty, Fourth, and Washington. More info: www.mainstreetannarbor.org.

July 12 – Growing Hope Monthly Community Potluck and Sustainability Film Series, 6-8:30 p.m. A monthly event to cultivate community and engage anyone interested in sustainable communities,

urban farming, and healthy food access. All are invited (including kids) to share in a meal and discussion with friends and neighbors. Film on sustainability theme immediately following. Please bring a dish to pass, and RSVP. Ypsilanti Public Library Downtown Branch, 922 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. More info: www.growinghope.net, (734) 786-8401.

July 17-20 – 54th Annual Ann Arbor Art Fair, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Award-winning, juried fair featuring the best in fine art and crafts, street corner entertainment, artists' demonstrations, children's activities, and local nonprofit organization booths. Downtown Ann Arbor; nonprofit booths on Liberty. More info: www.TheAnnArborArtFair.com.

July 19 – “Peace Generator” Monthly World-Healing Peace Circle, 7-9 p.m. Join others from all walks of life in silent prayer or focused meditation toward peace, understanding, joy, and healing for your family, the world, and yourself. Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd., Ann Arbor. More info: www.peacegenerator.org, or email info@peacegenerator.org.

July 23 – “Take a Chance Tuesday”: live & free music at The Ark, 7:30-10 p.m. Food Gatherers benefit concert featuring acclaimed jazz quartet Leftover Cuties. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Free; donations of nonperishable food items accepted. More info: www.theark.org, or call (734) 761-1451.

July 24-26 – Week After Art Fair Song Fest, 8 p.m. Celebrating 20 years, this free Kerrytown Concert House event on three consecutive evenings will feature intimate performances of music from a large variety of genres by celebrated artists. Seating limited; reserve online or by phone in advance. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor. More info: www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com, or call (734) 769-2999.

Placemakers – the Office of Community and Economic Development

by Susan Beckett

Working behind the scenes, the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) helps make great things happen around the county. They target funding to the areas where it will make the biggest overall difference, often coordinating single-purpose groups in a broader effort. Most of us have only a vague sense of what they do, and that is based on where our interests intersect with OCED investments.

Bicyclists know them as the people behind the design of the new bike paths on Washtenaw near the Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor border. Entrepreneurs see them as a source of start-up funding. Housing activists appreciate them as partners in providing gap funding for low-income developments. All are correct.

“We are looking for approaches that work. We are eager to adopt, adapt, steal, any approach that works and is sustainable,” said Mary Jo Callan, director of OCED.

The OCED takes a broad look at the county to determine those ventures that will make the biggest improvements in the quality of life, with a special emphasis on inclusion and access for those who are usually left out. For example, they have promoted expansion of non-motorized transportation infrastructure and improvements in transit systems, which make Washtenaw County a more desirable urban area and enable those without cars an affordable and safe way to commute to work. They impact children, schools, neighborhood-building and jobs for the elderly with the Foster Grandparents program. Youth in schools, child care centers, and



A small group of local elected officials attended a legislative forum hosted by the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital on May 20, 2013. From left to right: Rebekah Warren, Jeff Irwin, David Rutledge, Adam Zemke and Gretchen Driskell. Photo by Keagan Irner.

community-based programs – including juvenile detention centers – around the county benefit from the experience, guidance, companionship and presence of neighborhood seniors who come in regularly for a few hours a day. The seniors receive some remuneration, which they are likely to spend in their own neighborhoods to meet their own basic needs.

Economic and workforce development is another core OCED function. The OCED acts as a facilitator, partnering with agencies, businesses and non-profit organizations to spur infrastructure and economic development. Investments in Ann Arbor SPARK serve the high-tech industries and long-term job growth, while a partnership with Michigan Works! helps those who need jobs now. The OCED also has a small fund for start-up businesses. These are targeted to the east side of the county and primarily service lifestyle businesses like barber shops and coffee shops.

OCED does the research and policy work that guides the human services

houses until the housing market recovers.

Helping policy makers understand the need for affordable housing and informing the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) of the need in Washtenaw County is another of OCED's policy missions. The OCED also contributes funding to the Ann Arbor Housing Commission and other agencies that build and maintain low-income housing. They recently funded energy-efficiency improvements at the Hikone housing project, which will help residents by reducing their utility bills while improving the housing stock.

Their human services work includes back-end funding for agencies like Avalon and the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (Delonis Center). They also help address immediate needs through Barrier Busters, a consortium of service providers who take extraordinary actions on behalf of clients in pressing circumstances.

Fostering and communicating good ideas and planned development are accomplished in part through sponsoring public forums, such as the citizen engagement workshops used to develop the Ypsilanti and Pittsfield Township master plans. They also sponsored a legislative forum in May that connected area State representatives and senators with citizens, local officials and non-profit leaders interested in knowing what initiatives were underway at the state level to address economic development in Washtenaw County. Sen. Rebekah Warren highlighted the importance of community and economic development issues, noting that “we have more people [in Washtenaw County] living on less than \$2 per day [the global poverty line] than ever before in history.”

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Quick Resource Guide

Washtenaw Department of Human Services

22 Center St., Ypsilanti *Phone:* (734) 481-2000

Website: www.ewashtenaw.org

Drop-in hours to meet with case worker M-F 8:00-11:00 a.m.

FOOD

Delonis Center (Shelter Association of Washtenaw County)

312 W. Huron, Ann Arbor *Phone:* (734) 662-2829

Website: www.annarborshelter.org

Free Meals M-F 12-1 p.m. & 5:30-6:30 p.m., Sat & Sun 3-4 p.m.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

306 N. Division St., Ann Arbor *Phone:* (734) 663-0518

Website: www.standrewsaa.org

Breakfast 7:30-8:30 a.m. 7 days a week

Salvation Army

9 S. Park St., Ypsilanti *Phone:* (734) 482-4700

Website: www.sawashtenaw.org

Free Meals M-Th, Sat & Sun 5:00-6:00 p.m., and Wed 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

SHELTER

Housing Access Line

Phone: (734) 961-1999 M-F, 9:00 - 5:00

Centralized access to Washtenaw County shelters, information and referrals, eviction prevention and housing relocation assistance. Drop-in hours on Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Ozone House, 102 N. Hamilton, Ypsilanti

Project Outreach Team (PORT)

110 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor *Phone:* (734) 222-3750

Website: www.a2port.org

Provides outreach, assistance and treatment to homeless individuals

MEDICAL

Hope Medical Clinic

103 Arnet St., Ypsilanti *Phone:* (734) 481-0111

Website: www.thehopeclinic.org

Non-profit organization offering general medicine and pediatric care for uninsured

Packard Health

3174 Packard, Ann Arbor *Phone:* (734) 971-1073

Website: www.packardclinic.org

Non-profit organization offering preventative medicine, family medicine, immunizations, etc.

West Location: 501 N. Maple, Ann Arbor *Phone:* (734) 926-4900

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MONDAY – FRIDAY 8:30 AM – 5 PM

WHO SHOULD CALL?
Individuals or families:

- facing eviction
- who owe back rent
- who are experiencing homelessness
- with no ongoing place to stay

PLEASE NOTE:

- Housing Access cannot assist with utilities. Call The Salvation Army at 734-668-4668
- All shelters in Washtenaw County are filled by Housing Access.
- Housing Access assists low income individuals and families.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I CALL?

- You will hear an automatic message and you will be next in line if there is a wait. Please stay on the line or leave a message with a number where you can be reached.
- You will talk to a staff member who will help determine if you are eligible for assistance and if the assistance you need is available.
- If possible, you will be scheduled for an appointment to help provide the assistance that best fits your need.
- If you are not eligible for assistance or if assistance is not available, you will be given other resources to contact.

A partnership of The Salvation Army, IHV & Alpha House, Shelter Association of Washtenaw County, Ozone House, SafeHouse Center, Michigan Ability Partners, SOS, Housing Bureau for Seniors and the Washtenaw Housing Alliance. Funded by MSHDA and the Washtenaw Coordinated Funders.

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Ann Arbor's Latin Corner – great food and emerging ethnic neighborhood

by Susan Beckett

Some are calling it Mexicantown, but Sylvia Nolasco-Rivers, owner of Pilar's Tamales, thinks The Latin Corner would be more accurate. The tiny area on Ann Arbor's West Side, where Liberty runs between Maple and Stadium, has developed the feel of an authentic ethnic neighborhood, with people wandering in by foot as well as by car.

Steve Thiry orders ahead for lunch at Taco King every week or two, appreciating the proximity to his office on West Liberty, as well as the quality of the food. He also patronizes Chela's, and Pilar's catered his 50th birthday.

"I eat most at Taco King because I just love their tacos. I like that warm, soft folded tortilla taco. It is a lovely, savory meal at a very affordable price. I like supporting a small independent store, too. From a doc's perspective, ethnic foods tend to be healthier as they are less processed and use fresher ingredients," Thiry stated.

The Latin Corner started with Tienda La Libertad selling grocery products from Mexico to the sizable Latin population living in the nearby apartments and surrounding neighborhoods. The tiny grocery flourished and, when in 2009 they moved just steps away to the much larger brick front store, Pilar's Tamales moved into their vacated space.

Meanwhile, Tienda La Libertad changed ownership and transformed into a Latin American bodega, carrying a wide range of products from Mexico, Central America, Argentina, Brazil and Peru with about half the customers living in the surrounding neighborhoods and grateful to find products from their native countries. Some customers dine at Pilar's, then come over to buy spices and ingredients for cooking on their own, or to get a piñata or snack food.

"The store used to be 90 percent Mexican and 10 percent Central American. I have a natural curiosity and talk to my customers, find out where they are from and what products they want. The expanded South American section now accounts for about 40 percent of the store," said owner Saber



Naghmouchi.

A native of Tunisia, Naghmouchi understands the difficulties of people who come to this area from other countries but left relatives behind. He learned of Tienda La Libertad through his previous business as a cell phone distributor. When the previous owner talked of selling, Naghmouchi seized the opportunity to combine his past experience managing grocery stores in Toledo with his current business acumen in mobile phones and electronic banking services. The basement of Tienda La Libertad still supplies phone service, bill payment, money transfer and check cashing services with minimal fees, along with an assortment of soccer jerseys for sale.

"I was worn out with driving back and forth. I sold the store in Toledo and after two months we packed up and found a place on the West Side. I love Ann Arbor; it is really quiet and safe," said Naghmouchi.

Last year, the dining choices multiplied as Taco King opened inside Tienda La Libertad, Pilar's expanded into an adjoining storefront and opened a coffee shop, and Chela's opened around



Saber Naghmouchi (left), owner of Tienda La Libertad, stands among their well stocked shelves, Sylvia Nolasco-Rivers (top) at Pilar's Tamales, and Adrian Iraola (above) at Chela's Maple Rd. location.

the corner. Their combined presence draws a steady flow of diners.

"Competition is good. I like competition," Naghmouchi said. "It makes you work harder. I don't whine about it. I think it's good for everyone."

Lori Iraola of Chela's echoed that sentiment as she declared, "We're all working together. Our neighbors on both sides are great – the barber shop and the liquor store. We all send referrals back and forth."

"They are all nice people; you want them to be successful," Thiry chimed in.

Taco King features authentic and affordable prepared Mexican food, and an unbelievably good pork filling as one of the many choices in tamales, tacos and enchiladas. Authentic fillings like tripa (tripe) and lengua (tongue) are very popular. It offers extra convenience as shoppers can order lunch or dinner, shop for ingredients for home cooked meals while they wait, and pay for it all at once, passing time with a cold drink made with real sugar, served in a glass bottle from the cooler.

The refurbished dining space affords a

see LATIN CORNER, page 9

Case Clothed

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County Commissioner Yousef Rabhi: lifelong resident and activist

by Greg Hoffman
Groundcover Sales Manager

Yousef Rabhi is now in his second term as County Commissioner, representing the 8th District of Washtenaw County. He is a passionate advocate for robust and efficient county government, as well as for creating opportunities for the citizens of Washtenaw County to become genuine participants in their county government.

Rabhi, only 24 years old, is a strong supporter of the human services in the Ann Arbor community. Last fall, Rabhi announced a fundraising challenge: he would cut his hair for the first time since 2005, exchanging inches of hair for donations to support local organizations providing services for homeless individuals and families. Coordinated by the United Way, donations totaled \$4,135, which were split between Safe House Shelter, the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County, and Alpha House.

Rabhi says that his passion for local politics began at a very young age, with his first exposure to environmental justice advocacy coming while he was a preschool student at Blossom Homes Preschool. His preschool class, under the supervision of his teacher Jeanine Palms, adopted a portion of Malletts Creek.



Yousef Rabhi is a strong supporter of human services funding in Washtenaw County.

"We would go out and we would study the water quality and study the insects in the water," Rabhi recalled in a recent interview with Groundcover.

Rabhi says that even then, he was aware that the quality of the creek was a broader, systemic issue. In the years that followed, he was involved in the creation of a wet meadow at Buhr Park that was established as a way for water to settle and filter, rather than flowing directly into the creek and carrying pollutants with it. Almost 20 years later, Rabhi is still involved in maintaining

the wet meadow to protect the water quality in this area.

Environmental protection is the basis of his day job, too. He works for the Ann

Arbor Parks in their Natural Area Preservation Department, setting fires to help preserve native plants in the meadows.

In high school and college, Rabhi became involved in a variety of political groups, including Michigan Peaceworks, advocating for nonviolent solutions to the United States military conflicts in the Middle East. He became discouraged with the pace and impact of advocating for larger national issues, and adopted the mantra "Think Globally, Act Locally" and began getting more involved in local politics. This led to his involvement in the Ann Arbor Democratic Party, where he became a member or the Executive Board. He also became a regular attendee of City Council meetings and visited many local and state government officials.

During the first semester of his senior

see COMMISSIONER, page 11

Tienda La Libertad

Mexican and Latino Groceries

Open 9 – 9 Mon-Sat and 10 – 8 on Sunday
2231 W. Liberty St, Ann Arbor (just west of Stadium)
(734)585-5796

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7					9		3	2
9								8
8				3			7	
	7			2			9	
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Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Cryptoquote

WVDGNV BDPRC RYS HPDWCWRW MS
COCPNCSRT, DSUT LGZWMRC, BYMPSCZZ,
RDSZMJCPYWMDS YSJ RDDHCPYWMDS
RYS BMSYUUT UCYJ OCS WD WVC JYFS DB
CWCPSYU HCYRC.

— JFMNVW J. CMZCSVDFCP

Solutions on page 11

Groundcover Vendor Code

- While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

 - Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations by any other means.
 - I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
 - I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
 - I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
 - I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.
 - I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not “hard sell,” threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
 - I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
 - I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
 - I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
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ACROSS

1. MASCAR champion Warborough
5. Sports gear
9. Beaubien's equipment
14. Prophetic event
15. "_____ Mischonin"
16. Visitor to Neverland
17. "The poetic art of lying for one's country."
19. Bath salt
20. Tempts
21. Appeal
22. Perch
23. Monetary unit of Singapore
25. Computer key
27. Chemical suffix
28. Container
31. Energy
34. Poem
36. Resentment
37. Everything
38. "A person of low taste, more interested in himself than in me."
41. Third letter
42. Eastern European resident
44. Rita Hayworth title role
45. Frailty
46. Overindulge
47. People
48. Aviate
50. Abrasion
52. Mammalian
56. Caresse
58. "_____ Black"
60. Car
61. "In law, a previous decision, rule or practice which, in the absence of a definite statute, has whatever force and authority a judge may choose to give it, thereby greatly simplifying his task of doing as he pleases."
63. African country
64. Effortlessness
65. Chemical suffix
66. Units of weight
67. Brooklyn's NBA team
68. Infrequent

DOWN

1. Cryptographer
2. Organic acid
3. Animal disease, for short
4. Sign up
5. Equivalent
6. Cars
7. Business abbreviation
8. Animal enclosure
9. Reside
10. Supersede
11. "An ingenious modern game of chance in which the player is permitted to enjoy the comfortable conviction that he is beating the man who keeps the table."
12. California jeweler
13. _____ Intrinsica, village in England
18. Musical scale
21. Brew
23. "A tyrant's authority for crime and foul's excuse for failure."
24. Comic book writer Denny
26. Implore
29. Nordic name
30. Noticed
31. Outdistance
32. Singer Fitzgerald
33. "The fundamental element and special glory of popular literature. A thought that snows in words that smoke. The wisdom of a million foods in the diction of a dullard. A fossil sentiment in artificial rock. A moral without the fable. All that is mortal of a departed truth. A demitasse of milk-and-mortality. The Pope's nose of a featherless peacock. A jellyfish withering on the shore of the sea of thought. The riddle surviving the egg. A desiccated epigram."
35. Jolly
39. Airport code for Louisville International
40. Moving pictures, with sound!
43. Abdominal
47. "Mississippi _____"
49. There
51. Trousers
53. _____ Lucania, town in Italy
54. _____ Alsargi, Miss World 1996
55. Mining debris
56. Bygone
59. One-spots
61. Animal enclosure
62. Norma _____, Sally Field role

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond

Latin Corner – a growing cultural gem of Ann Arbor

continued from page 6

pleasant and comfortable place to enjoy the food while it is hot and fresh. Groups of lunchtime patrons regularly mingle there and in the new patio seating.

“Our goal is to have a fully established customer base by our third year. We are three businesses in one and we are working all the time,” said Naghmouchi.

Naghmouchi’s wife, Sihem, works with their Mexican cook to refine recipes for regional favorites suggested by customers and helps run the store, but also has her own Tunisian catering business.

“My friends, and many people who work here with me, would see me bring in Tunisian food for my lunch. I gave them tastes and they liked the food and asked me to bring more for them, that they would pay for it. And I like to cook,” Sihem said.

Opening a coffee shop had been percolating in Pilar’s head since one of her first jobs in the United States, working for Espresso Royale on State Street in the early 1990s. She grew up with good coffee in the capital city of San Salvador but became a coffee snob as a barista. She takes great pride in the coffee she imports and has roasted locally by The Ugly Mug in Ypsilanti.

“They are always looking for a really good Salvadoran coffee and we make a special blend for her. Pilar’s customers sometimes come in here and comment on how much they enjoy the coffee,” said Ugly Mug general manager Eric Mullins.

Lotus Farms makes Pilar’s horchata – a sweet, creamy concoction of rice, morro seeds, cinnamon, vanilla and spice – that is a drink in itself like dulce de leche, and is also used to flavor coffee. Hibiscus tea, tamarind and spicy mocha round out the unusual beverage menu.

Pilar’s cuisine is Salvadoran and her signature tamales have a wide appeal. Salvadoran sides such as fried plantains and desserts like quesadilla ala Gabriel sweet bread extend the menu of eggs and varied tamales and pupusas (stuffed tortillas).

Pilar’s recently added outdoor seating and music in the garden space behind her restaurants, greatly expanding her seating area. The large commercial kitchen already serves her tamale cart and catering business as well as the restaurant, but Nolasco-Rivers is

confident that it is up to the additional challenge.

Challenge is nothing new to Pilar. She came with her family to the United States without documentation, seeking sanctuary from the violence in El Salvador and sponsored by the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting Quaker House. The name “Pilar’s” resonates with that history. Fear of reprisals from the Salvadoran government prompted the family to change their names. Her aunt Rosario changed her name to Pilar and, years later, gave permission for Nolasco-Rivers to use it for her business.

“In my 13 years, it is more than wanting to stay in business. [It is also] to grow friendships, community – to do something for my community,” mused Nolasco-Rivers.

This commitment to her community takes the form of fundraising for immigrant rights; letting a customer who teaches yoga use her restaurant on Monday, her day off, for a yoga class which Pilar and her daughter attend; and hosting a lawyer, Angie Martell, to share her knowledge of immigrants’ rights and guide neighborhood folks through the legalities of employment and small business ownership.

Just around the corner on Maple Road, Adrian Iraola, a native of Mexico City and retired Ann Arbor city engineer, realized a life-long dream in May of 2012 when he and his wife, Lori, opened Chela’s in the space that was once Kappa Koney Island. They, too are using their space to benefit the community, hosting English as a Second Language courses on Sunday evenings for their staff, friends and customers.

Chela’s is the first business venture for either of them, though both have culinary family histories. Iraola’s great-grandmother catered the multi-day parties that commonly celebrated weddings and milestone birthdays in rural Mexico in the 1920s. Many of his great-grandmother’s recipes are followed at Chela’s. One of his earliest memories is being sent to the mill to get more corn for tortillas and being scolded by the ladies who were hand-husking the corn because he ran into the room and jumped into the pile of shucked corn.

Lori is not much of a cook and runs the business side of the operation – in fact, being able to eat the restaurant food on a regular basis is a dream-come-true for her – but her grandmother was the head cook at the Old German (a

downtown restaurant that closed in 1995).

Chela’s niche is street food like that you can get in Mexico City. Iraola grew up with that food as his father leased out parking spaces in Mexico City and saved a corner in each lot for food carts. Mexican foods like tamales are too foreign for much of the Midwest, but Ann Arbor’s cosmopolitan nature makes it a ready market for authentic cuisine, according to Iraola. Adaptations of traditional foods accommodate vegetarian and gluten-free diets. They also pride themselves on using fresh, healthy ingredients prepared with no trans fats and low sodium.

“If we make food from the streets of Mexico City, are people going to get it? Will they like it?” Iraola wondered.

The answer was a resounding yes, as Chela’s was packed from the day they opened and sold out the first few days before they increased their preparations to accommodate their enthusiastic reception.

“We wanted to have fresh, affordable, healthy food for families who want to eat out. When our kids were little, we ran around doing soccer and just wanted to grab something healthy, quick and affordable,” Lori recalled. “We have a complete range of customers; at least half live or work nearby and come here with strollers or on bikes. It has the feel of a European café. Some people pick up lunch on their way out and dinner on their way home.”

To accommodate families, they added a child-sized quesadilla, more child chairs, and enclosed outdoor seating that includes a couple of children’s picnic tables side-by-side with their full-sized counterparts. Iraola, a natural artist and trained architect, painted an orchard on the back of the building to complete the ambience in the outdoor area that doubles their seating and offers a space for private parties.

They run a large catering business, too, accounting for about 10 percent of their business. They have a staff of seven working on busy nights, some of whom do not speak much English, and there is a broad range of language skills among the 25 percent of their customers who are Latin. Lori posted signs around the restaurant identifying the English words for common items.

Barbacoa is one of the most popular menu items and is an Iraola family recipe. Traditionally, taquerias cooked

all parts of animals except for hooves and skin and developed this method of cooking to marinate and tenderize some of those cuts. Instead of digging a hole and layering the meat between hot stones and cactus leaves, as they do in rural Mexico, Chela’s marinates western cuts of meat like sirloin with cilantro and onions and slow bakes them. Caldos is the rich broth byproduct that will find its way onto the menu as soup in the winter.

Tamales, which are so time-consuming to make that many in rural Mexico only serve them at Christmas, are another family recipe and menu favorite, as are the several salsa choices to accompany them. Flan is as common in Mexico as brownies are here, and just as varied. The creamy, rich custardy dessert served at Chela’s resulted from years of experimentation. Specials are often available, as are menu variations and special orders when the kitchen can manage them, and patrons can observe the preparation.

“We like the open kitchen concept so people can see what we are doing with their food,” commented Lori.

The synergy of the three establishments so close together gives rise to new ideas and possibilities. A Latin fiesta, with food carts – each showing off what they do best and exhibiting their uniqueness – and people flowing from one establishment to the next, is part of Nolasco-Rivers’ vision for the future.

“Let’s keep going with this whole Latin scene,” she commented. “It is so wonderful to have diversity. Your spaghetti is going to be different from mine, and can’t we rejoice that they’re both great?”

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The Horrors to Come

by Corey Edwards

I sit and ponder what horrors may come,
While certain people count dollars until their fingers go numb,
They want it all as they are not content with just some,
Power renders them drunk like vodka, whisky and rum.
While I hum this sad tune there are many who despair,
The world at large doesn't care, there is no pity in their stare,
They'll declare the same thing over and over again,
That there will always be losers within the ranks of men,
Those who say this without end have only one ally and friend,
And that is the dollar bill -- and as long as their bellies are filled,
They could care less if the world is going directly off a hill
And to instill blind obedience they'll make their subordinates kill,
But the thing that scares me the most, that gives me the chills,
Is that these men wave and smile and people bow to their will,
And believe the lies they tell that are guiding us to hell,
While we think all is well like the angels before they fell
From the gates of paradise; for some nothing will suffice,
Till people die of starvation while they live in celebration.
There are no words that can convince these fools,
That suffering is intrinsic to their fabricated rules,
And while their children swim in pools and go to the best schools,
Children of a lesser God have to use rudimentary tools
To carve out their own destinies, to try to escape their fate;
Some fail in the process, many have learned to hate.
But their rage is impotent against those who perpetrate
These monstrous crimes in the name of church and state.
It is with impunity that these criminals desecrate,
And nothing can be done to change them even if we berate.
They sail through life on ships built by slaves,
And they have not the slightest qualm when it comes to filling graves.
Those who block their path are often considered knaves,
And on their mantelpieces you'll find the heads of the braves
Who chose to defy but who fell victim to the lie
That some will know comfort while most will suffer and die.
But if the truth must be told evil men will always fall,
And will show themselves cowards when pushed against a wall,
When faced with a different evil who tends to have more balls,
Then there's the changing of the guard in the aristocratic halls,
With their blood-stained decor and hypocritical traditions,
The good are trampled upon, the powerful stay in position.
It is said that evil prevails when good men fail
To act; but what they should say is that evil will prevail,
And while the good lug their crosses on dusty paths and roads,
Princesses kiss kings with souls uglier than toads.
Our days and nights are numbered like the hair on our heads,
Some don't have a care while others are gloomy instead,
Because they see clearly and what they know gives them fear,
Because they foresee the loss of all they hold dear,
But they dare not speak for fear of being ridiculed.
For being too grim, rejection often is the unwritten rule;
As for me I tremble and quake and sometimes my heart breaks,
That powerful men act childish because they don't know the stakes,
Eloquence means nothing in the kingdom of the dumb,
So I sit and ponder what horrors may come.

None for Tent City

by Susan Sabo

Groundcover Contributor

*On the bus ride to the pie factory
Where I work
A handsome black man
In a green leather jacket
And a jaunty cap,
His wheelchair well-secured says, smiling:
"That's Tent City under the bridge –
People really live there –
They really do."
Later at the pie factory
I sell three pies –
An apple oatmeal crunch,
A pear and berry crisp,
And a coconut cream
For \$43.90
But none for Tent City.*

Commissioner Rabhi and his second term for the 8th District

continued from page 7

year at the University of Michigan in the Program in the Environment, Rabhi decided to run for County Commissioner. This office particularly appealed to him as a way for him to have a direct impact where he lived. He recognized an opportunity to advocate for his local community while also pushing forward the economic prosperity of the diverse populations within Washtenaw County, a unique blend of helping his neighbors while also working for both the urban and rural communities in Washtenaw County. He ran on a platform of environmental awareness and building a robust county government.

The primary election provided a great lesson in the importance of every vote as the initial results indicated that he won the primary election by a single vote.

"It was kind of a testament to the whole reason that I got involved in this. I had felt that my voice was not making a big difference, but then there was this instance where one vote in a local election decided the election. I still have people that come up to me and tell me

'I was that one vote.'"

The ensuing recount showed that there was actually a margin of only two votes, with Rabhi as the primary winner.

He ran his general election campaign during his final semester at U-M. He won the election in November, graduated from U-M in December, and was sworn into office in January. After election to his second term, Rabhi was chosen as the Chair of the County Commissioners as their first act of business in 2013.

As County Commissioner, Rabhi has been dedicated to the sustainability of local government, and advocated for long-term planning as a means of protecting against continued external pressures to cut government budgets. One of the key projects in protecting the resiliency of local government was negotiating and ratifying 10-year labor contracts for government employees. By knowing labor costs this far in advance, the County government can much more effectively make budget decisions, and combat cuts in state and federal funding.

Another unique project that Rabhi is

working for in the County government is developing a four-year budget.

"I don't know of any other municipality or government that does four-year budgets at this point," Rabhi said. "I believe that doing a four-year budget helps us to lock in some of our costs and some of our revenue assumptions so that we can budget for longer-term projects, so we can think about economic prosperity and growth in different terms and more long-term views."

Rabhi also hopes to promote citizen participation in the County government. He would like to consolidate some of the various committees and advisory boards to engage citizens in a more active way. Creating opportunities for these committees to make specific recommendations that the County Commissioners can act upon, results in a more participatory and engaged citizenry that directly impacts the development of policy and projects at the county level.

He hopes to create an environmental commission that brings citizens and

government officials together around one table so that "we can talk about these issues in a more robust an engaging way. The potential for impact is very significant."

Rabhi also emphasizes the County government's commitment to promoting human services delivery in Washtenaw. He proudly speaks of many of the projects that the County government supports through the Coordinated Funding Program, which provides funding for various nonprofits throughout the county that are engaged in efforts to improve the quality of life of county residents.

"We are building community prosperity and helping everybody in the county to move forward. We believe that it's those who need our help the most, who don't have access to funds and resources – those are the people we need to be focusing on. Those are the people that we need to find jobs for; those are the people that we need to build economic prosperity for. That's why I'm doing this, and that's why I'm passionate about it," said Rabhi.



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–Dwight D. Eisenhower

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Single-Serve Fish Packets



by Lisa Sonnenburg
Groundcover Contributor

- 1 fillet white fish (perch, cod, or tilapia)
- 1 T olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1 bell pepper, sliced into strips
- ½ small onion, sliced
- 3 small mushrooms, sliced
- 1 T chili garlic sauce
- 1 T lime juice
- 2 T chopped cilantro (optional)

Preheat oven to 450°F.
Tear a 24" piece of tin foil and fold in half.
Put oil on tin foil.
Place fish on tin foil and season with salt and pepper.
Place pepper, onion and mushrooms slices on top.
Pour lime juice and chili sauce over vegetables and fish. Garnish with cilantro if desired.

Fold tin foil from each side to center and pinch together to seal. If there is not enough tin foil, simply take another sheet of foil to cover top and fold underneath packet.
Place in oven and cook for 30 minutes.
Open foil packet (be careful of the steam!) and serve over rice or pasta.

An easy dinner for one. To make this for more, simply make more packets.
Can be served by itself, or with rice or pasta.

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NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter - Cy Klone © 2013

Ready for America's noisiest holiday?

I'm ready to hide under the bed, if that's what you mean. Celebrating the birth of a nation with symbolic reenactments of war is not my preference, however.

You have a better idea?

Sure, how about folks get together to read and discuss the Constitution after a day of swimming and grilling?

Aren't we supposed to leave that to our politicians?

In case you haven't noticed, they don't seem to be reading the Constitution either.

We do seem to have a problem with illegal snooping and questionable wars.

Orwell's "1984" is non-fiction now.

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